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Docket No.: 614.1921

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Tadao NAKAZAWA, et al.

Serial No. 09/248,103

Group Art Unit: 2633

Confirmation No. 8397

Filed: February 11, 1999

Examiner: A. Bello

For: ACOUSTO-OPTICAL TUNABLE FILTERS CASCADED TOGETHER

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RESPONSE

FEB 21 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on March 19, 2003.

The following remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-89 are pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15, 18-22, 25-32, 35-59, 62-68 AND 71-89
UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER GAUDINO, "A NOVEL AOTF-BASED MULTICHANNEL ADD-DROP NODE AND ITS CASCADABILITY IN WDM RING NETWORKS" IN VIEW OF THOMPSON, U.S. PATENT NO. 6,031,852

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to an apparatus comprising first and second optical filters cascaded together so that the second optical filter filters light output from the first optical filter. The first and second optical filters have filtering characteristics controlled in accordance RF signals applied thereto. As recited, for example, in claim 1, a phase of a beat generated by the RF signals applied to the first optical filter is different than a phase of a beat generated by the RF signals applied to the second optical filter.

Various of the claims specifically recite an acousto-optical tunable filter (AOTF). See,